

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W

-----123597 011348Z /64

P R 011247Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1143

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2536

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: HOVE SACKED, MUZOREWA THREATENS TO  
QUIT

REF: PRETORIA 2364

1. BLACK MINISTER OF JUSTICE, BYRON HOVE, WAS GIVEN NOTICE  
ON APRIL 28 THAT HE HAD BEEN DISMISSED FROM HIS POSITION BY  
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC). THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME FROM  
CHIEF CHIRAU, ZUPO LEADER AND CURRENT EC CHAIRMAN. CHIRAU  
SAID THAT HOVE HAD DEFIED THE EC AND REFUSED TO WITHDRAW HIS  
CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS ABOUT REORGANIZATION OF THE POLICE AND  
JUDICIARY (REFTEL). HOVE REPORTEDLY LEFT IMMEDIATELY FOR  
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LONDON, WHERE HE STILL HAS HIS LEGAL FIRM. HE TOLD REPORTERS  
AT THE AIRPORT THAT HIS FIRING WAS A BREACH OF THE  
INTERNAL AGREEMENT AND "IS LEGALLY NULL AND VOID" BECAUSE  
BISHOP MUZOREWA HAD NOT TAKEN PART IN THE DECISION.  
HOVE SAID HE HAS NO REGRETS ABOUT LEAVING AND DOESN'T  
TAKE IT PERSONALLY. HE SAID, "THE ISSUE IS WHETHER WE  
ARE MOVING TOWARDS MAJORITY RULE. THIS MUST BE REFLECTED

IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND THIS IS NOT HAPPENING."

2. MEANWHILE, IT IS REPORTED THAT MUZOREWA MAY QUIT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IF HOVE, A UANC APPOINTEE, IS NOT REINSTATED. MUZOREWA'S FIRST REACTION PUBLICLY WAS TO EXPRESS "SHOCK" AND SAY THAT HE "CATEGORICALLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY DISASSOCIATE (D)" HIMSELF FROM THE DECISION. AFTER A FOUR HOUR UANC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 30, A STATEMENT WAS ISSUED DEMANDING HOVE'S REINSTATEMENT, AND CONDEMNING THE EC FOR ITS ACTION OF "BREAKING FAITH" WITH THE AGREEMENT, AND SUPPORTING HOVE'S STATEMENTS AS "WELL WITHIN THE UANC'S PARTY PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES." IT ADDED THAT THE PARTY WAS "REVIEWING THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ITS CONTINUED PARTICIPATION" IN THE GOVERNMENT. A NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING WAS TO BE HELD ON MAY 7 TO DISCUSS THIS POINT. PARTY MEMBERS ALSO REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR DISMISSAL OF HOVE'S WHITE COUNTERPART, HILARY SQUIRES, FOR "A BREACH OF THE PRACTICE OF COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY" AND OF GENERAL WALLS, THE COMBINED OPERATIONS COMMANDER WHO HAD SPOKEN OUT AGAINST HOVE, FOR MEDDLING IN POLITICS. REPORTEDLY THERE WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF SOME 1500 PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE OFFICES WHERE THE UANC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET CALLED FOR SCRAPPING OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IF HOVE ISN'T REINSTATED. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE THE FIRST MAJOR INTERNAL CRISIS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. THE EC, WITHOUT MUZOREWA, DID VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLE OF A COLLECTIVE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AND MAY HAVE THEREBY INDICATED MORE ABOUT THE TRUE NATURE OF THE SETTLEMENT THAN SMITH WOULD HAVE DESIRED. THE INCIDENT SHOWS THAT BLACK MINISTERS AND EVEN EC MEMBERS STILL OPERATE AT THE TOLERANCE OF THE WHITE POWER STRUCTURE. DEPENDING ON HOW MUZOREWA CHOOSES TO ACT, THE INCIDENT COULD BODE ILL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. MUZOREWA HAS IN THE PAST BACKED DOWN FROM THREATS TO QUIT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE BUT HE MAY FIND HIMSELF FORCED TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THIS ONE. SMITH AND THE OTHER EC MEMBERS, HOWEVER, MUST REALIZE THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL BECOME TOOTHLESS WITHOUT THE BISHOP AND THEY COULD POSSIBLY BACK DOWN ON THEIR STAND WITH SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT SAYS THAT SMITH SECRETLY CONTACTED MUZOREWA ON APRIL 30 AND TOLD HIM THAT THE EC MIGHT RECONSIDER HOVE'S POSITION. STILL THE BISHOP MUST BE RECOGNIZING THE STACKED DECK HE IS PLAYING AGAINST AND HIS

REACTIONS TO THIS INCIDENT WILL TELL US MUCH ABOUT  
HIS FUTURE ROLE.  
NELSON

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## Message Attributes

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